

The Sumpter Miner

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Deportation is the remedy which a Colorado paper suggests for the knocker evil. In some camps that would mean a depopulation, unless favorites were played. Even then, the cure wouldn't be as bad as the disease.

The mining law amendment bill, introduced in the lower house of the Prussian diet, provides that owners must operate their mines when there is a prospect of profit, or when their suspension is detrimental to public interest. In the event of owners not complying with an order of the mining department to resume work, the latter is empowered to institute proceedings to deprive the owners of their property and in the meantime to appoint an official to operate the mines. That bill certainly must have been drafted by a Willamette valley farmer.

The Nevada legislature has voted \$22,000 for a metallurgical laboratory for the state university, there having been not a single dissenting vote. People engaged in mining down there must be considered just as good as ordinary folks. It is different in Oregon. Here the farmers from the Willamette valley and the Portland grafters combine to enact legislation to kill the mining industry, seeming to consider it an illegitimate occupation that must be "regulated." Over in Washington, too, the legislature is considering bills that will effectually put a quietus on the business.

The only real satisfactory method of determining the weight of ore in place is to take a stope, carefully measure up an excavation and weigh the ore that has come out from the cavity so made. Of course the old rule of using the specific gravity of the average material, if carefully applied with the proper factor of safety, will give fair results. It is often the only one that can be adopted. The factor of safety applied, of course, is very largely a matter of judgment and experience. It has been found, however, that the application of the specific gravity rule usually gives results somewhat in excess of those obtained by the application of the practical method of breaking down ore, measuring the cavity made, and weighing the ore obtained from it.—Mining Reporter.

The Southern Pacific railroad officials have supplied London and Paris officials, at their requests, all the data that has been collected during the past thirty-five years pertaining to the gradual drying up of Salt Lake. Just what these scientists wish to determine is not stated. From the data it appears that the lake has been receding steadily since 1875. In the sixteen years between 1889 and 1902 there has been a total fall of about twelve feet. Proportionately the fall in the level of the lake during the past three years has been much greater, and at the present rate the lake will dry up within forty years and become a dry, extensive bed of salt. The large diversion of water

from streams emptying into the lake for purposes of irrigation, together with constant evaporation, is, of course, the simple explanation of why this unique body of salt water, about 4300 feet in altitude and 1100 miles inland from the shores of the Pacific ocean, will, in a few years, be a thing of the past.

There is very little harmony in the mining laws established by the various states. In regard to the size of claim, some states allow the full maximum area allowed by the federal law—1,500x600 feet. Other states allow claims only one-half, and in some cases only one-quarter the area allowed by the federal statute; for example, in Montana, mining claims are 1,500 feet long by 600 feet wide that is to say, 300 feet on each side of the vein located. In Colorado the width cannot exceed 300 feet, or 150 feet on each side of the vein. In some counties of Colorado, the local regulations confine the width to 150 feet, or seventy-five feet on each side of the discovery shaft. In some states the law requires the prospector to do his location work within a short period, such as ninety days, whereas in others, a prospector may allow his assessment work to go for nearly two years in some cases.—Mining Reporter.

Much has been said and written about the promoter, but it has been left to the Dillon, Wyoming, Doublejack to compare him to a nurse maid; which suggests the idea to The Miner that this conception, extended further, would lead one to designate the prospector as a flat, barrel-breasted mother and the investor as the wet nurse. The Doublejack says:

"And yet, if the devil always got his due, the much maligned promoter should be credited with playing the most important part of the trinity of individuals who make the mines—the prospector, the promoter and the investor. For a prospector finds the mine and his work is done, the investor invests his money and waits for returns. The promoter tells of its existence to the men who have money; he is the go-between for the men who have the prospect and no money and the men who have the money and no prospect. The promoter is the nurse maid, who adopts a foundling and nurses it, trains it, and directs its youth. And to him, by all the laws of justice, should credit be given for the part he plays in the development of the great west. Without him nine-tenths of our great mines, which have annually added millions to the wealth of the east, would still be mere prospect holes, and an army of prospectors who made their 'little stake' through the aid of the promoter, would still be looking for the mine that paid from the grass roots."

A number of leading citizens met last evening with Messrs. Killen and Warner to discuss the Sumpter-Bourne railroad proposition. When it was announced in The Miner that these gentlemen were here for the purpose of perfecting arrangements to build this road, expecting to begin work at an early date, some inexplicable opposition to the enterprise appeared. They at once announced that if the people here didn't want the road, they certainly wouldn't force it on the community. This entirely justifiable attitude on their part caused some of the more progressive citizens to take the matter up, which resulted in the meeting last evening.

Messrs. Killen and Warner, speak-

ing for their company, stated that they have the larger portion of the money necessary to build the road pledged, if the people here will show their faith in the enterprise by subscribing for a small per cent of the bonds. This was considered altogether satisfactory and it is understood that all opposition is withdrawn. A committee was appointed to handle this end of the deal. There is no formidable obstacle in the way of success, and very little doubt at this time.

Strange to say, there has been some, apparently, honest difference of opinion as to what effect this road will have on Sumpter's future, a few people thinking that it might divert trade from this camp. Not wishing to appear dogmatic, The Miner must say that these skeptics are absolutely mistaken. The principle that to improve and facilitate travel and transportation between any town and tributary districts is supremely beneficial to both the central and the contiguous communities is as certain established as any principle of political economy can be, and can be demonstrated with the accurate certainty of a mathematical problem.

This is a mere allegation, of course, though it is true. But to come down to details in this particular case; the building of this road will bring in foreign capital that will be circulated here, in the construction of the road. After it is built, it will make possible the profitable working of mines which are not now operated, owing to high transportation charges on machinery and ore. This will increase the pay roll. As the ore supply increases, the capacity of the smelter must necessarily be enlarged, which will result inevitably in the growth of Sumpter's population, which means that the merchants will sell more goods. The whole local commercial and industrial world will be stimulated by the introduction of money, both from the outside and that taken from the ground, and money is as necessary to business life as blood is to animal life.

This is merely one phase of the proposition; there are a half a dozen others, equally as important, even if in less degree of magnitude. The truth of the matter is, that this is Sumpter's one chance, not only to hold its own, but to grow and thrive. The most optimistic must admit that during recent months this town has lost ground and that something must be done to stop this retrograde movement. This railroad enterprise will do it and give it another impetus that will irresistibly land it in the front rank of western mining camps, and no effort or price will be too costly to secure so important a factor in the substantial development of the country and the upbuilding of Sumpter.

Frank J. Sullivan, of California, some time since delivered an address on the pioneers of that state, in which he gave some interesting facts about the discovery of gold there. He said:

"On January 24th, 1848, just two weeks before the signing of the articles of peace with Mexico, gold was discovered in California. Then commenced the movement of people to the mines from all parts of the earth. Unlike the pioneers of former days, the majority of these immigrants simply desired to gather gold and then return to their homes; but as fate would have it, allured by the beauty of the scenery and the mild climate, they preferred to remain citizens of this land of the west.

The number of ships that arrived in San Francisco bay then numbered two each day. Nearly all were abandoned by their crews, who preferred to seek their fortunes in the mines. The finest vessels afloat rotted in the bay. In 1849 alone, the pioneers by sea numbered 35,000, of which 23,000 were Americans. Those by land amounted to 42,000, of whom 33,000 were Americans. To show the results of the discovery of gold, I will give some figures. In 1847, the total of gold product in the United States was less than \$1,000,000. In 1849, by reason of the California mines, the figure arose to \$40,000,000, and in 1853 to \$65,000,000, the greatest output in our history. Can anyone now doubt why California is called golden. It was golden in its mines, golden in its flowers, golden in its sunsets, golden in the possession of the pioneers and its native sons and daughters."

Railroad officials state that 8,000 tickets have been sold at St. Louis and 7,000 at Chicago for Goldfield, Nevada, and that they expect to sell in all 30,000 tickets to Nevada points during the next two or three months. That mob of tenderfeet will be as completely fleeced and thoroughly disgusted as was the great crowd that rushed into the Yukon country a few years ago. One in a thousand may make a stake, a few will manage to make a living and the vast majority will make a disastrous failure. But the old "responder," the man who has served an apprenticeship in western booms, who is "wise" to the situation and his opportunities will unquestionably make a "big killing." There has been no such run of suckers since the Alaska craze, and there will probably be no other such for years to come; possibly never again in this country.

The congress just ended made appropriations at its first session aggregating \$781,172,375.18, and the expenditure authorized at the second session foot up \$818,478,914.81. This gives a grand total of \$1,599,651,289.99—and it breaks the record. When we had our first "billion-dollar congress" the country held up its hands in holy horror, and campaign orators and the newspapers rang the changes on governmental extravagance for years afterward.

The present incident of "a billion-and-a-half-dollar congress" is not likely to cause any general popular apprehension as to the financial soundness of the nation, but it must inevitably set the most conservative element in our citizenship to doing some hard thinking, for these appropriations by the fifty-eighth congress exceed by \$13,438,652 the expenditures of the fifty-fifth congress, which had to provide for the extraordinary expenses of the Spanish-American war, and they threaten a deficit of nearly \$93,000,000 at the close of the next fiscal year.

It must be borne in mind, too, that in 1898 special internal-revenue taxes were levied in various ways, in order to meet the enormous expenditures incident to the war, but now the government has only the ordinary sources of revenue to rely upon to pay the bills authorized. On the other hand, a compensating and altogether reassuring circumstance in the present situation is the available cash balance of approximately \$141,000,000 in the United States treasury—a balance fully \$66,000,000 in excess of the \$75,000,000 that Secretary Shaw regards as "entirely safe and secure."